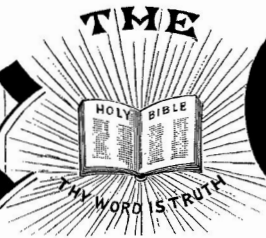


# Bible Echo.



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## THE BIBLE ECHO,

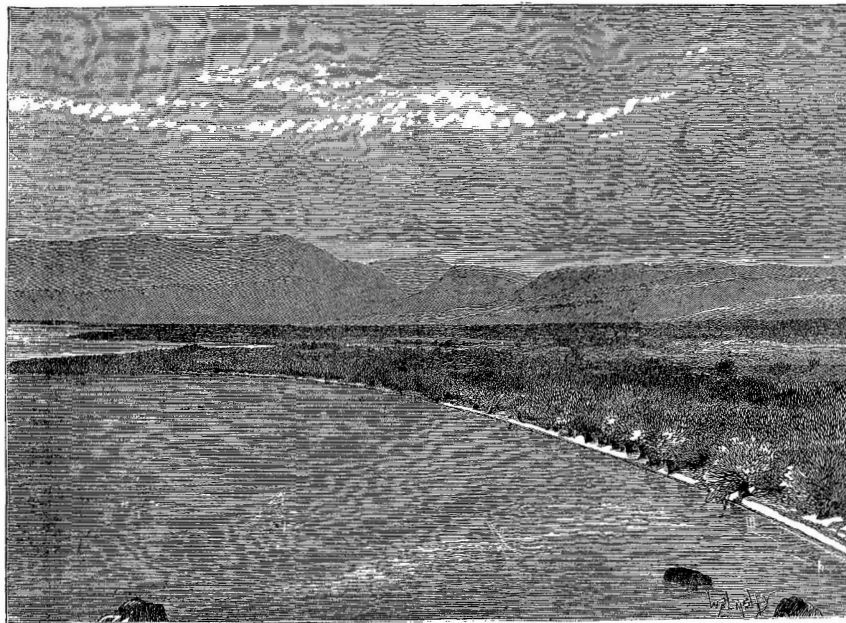
ISSUED SEMI-MONTHLY FOR THE  
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### Current Comments.

#### THE SEA OF GALILEE.

THIS sea is called in the Old Testament "the Sea of Chinnereth," or "Chinneroth" (Num. 34:11; Josh. 12:3), from a town of that name on or near its shore (Josh. 19:35). At its north-west angle was a beautiful and fertile plain called "the land of Gennesaret" (Matt. 14:34), from which the name of the lake was taken. The lake is also called in the New Testament "the Sea of Galilee," from the province of Galilee which bordered on its western side (Matt. 4:18; Mark 7:31; John 6:1); and "the Sea of Tiberias," from the celebrated city (chap. 6:1). Its modern name is Sea of Tiberias. Most of our Lord's public life was spent at or near the Sea of Gennesaret. This region was then the most densely peopled in all Palestine. Nine cities stood on the shores of the lake, but seven of



SEA OF GALILEE.

them are now uninhabited ruins. The Sea of Gennesaret is of an oval shape, about thirteen geographical miles long, and six broad. The river Jordan enters it at its north end, and passes out at its south end. In fact, the bed of the lake is just a lower section of the great Jordan valley. Its most remarkable feature is its deep depression, being no less than seven hundred feet below the level of the ocean. The scenery is bleak and monotonous. The great depression makes the climate of the shores almost tropical. This is very sensibly felt by the traveller in going down from the plains of Galilee. In summer the heat is intense, and even in early spring the air has something of an Egyptian balminess. The water of the lake

s sweet, cool, and transparent; and as the beach is everywhere pebbly it has a beautiful sparkling look. It abounds in fish now as in ancient times. The fishery, like the soil of the surrounding country, is sadly neglected.—*Smith's Dictionary of the Bible.*

"ALL India will be Christian in less than fifty years," said a learned Pundit to the writer the other day; and if we may regard recent developments as a sign, the prophet is not likely to be very far wrong. Very recently here in India there has been a strange set in the tide of public thought and sympathy toward Christianity; not the Christianity of dogma and theology, of course, but that of philanthropy and social reform. And still more recently, within the last

any such suspicion. It is clearly nothing of the kind. The writer, Dewan Bahadur Srinavasa Iyengar, Registrar-General of Madras, has for his object the redemption of his poorer countrymen from a position of degradation and misery. And he advises them to become Christian, in order, as he is careful to explain, that they may the more easily and certainly improve their social position. He wants to see them saved from being swamped by barbarism on the one hand, and from being ground under the iron hoofs of caste intolerance on the other. He would deliver them entirely from all traces of social and racial inferiority. This is a vast step forward, and we find it difficult to decide which most to admire, the intelligence and impartiality with which the Dewan approaches

the entire subject, or the philosophic acquiescence in the inevitable, which led him to propose a remedy which, from a religious point of view, was, doubtless, in a high degree objectionable.—*T. H. Whitmore, in the Independent.*

IF wars, rumors of wars, volcanic eruptions, avalanches, earthquakes, and general upheaval in the moral, political, religious, and physical realms are indications of the near approach of a new era, then there can be little doubt that we are not very far from the fulfilment of some startling prophecies.—*Christian Commonwealth.*

#### COVETOUSNESS IN THE CHURCH.

SELF has got hold of the purse-strings, and the Lord is likely to be robbed of his dues. That is the real secret of diminished contributions in our churches; and that accounts for the fact that while God's church is growing richer at a rapid rate, so many grand institutions for the spread of his kingdom are often at starvation point. "The lust of the eye and the pride of life" steal in, and under smooth pretences commit their shameful larcenies of the moneys which God loans to his stewards. When Christians undertake to cheat God, their sin is sure sooner or later to find them out.—*T. L. Cuyler, D. D.*

fortnight, in fact, all India has been startled by the issue of an important State paper, in which the writer, a Brahmin of considerable repute hereabout, after taking into account the position of the Pariah community, their enslavement, ignorance, helplessness and poverty, deliberately declares it to be his conviction that the "only hope for the salvation of the slums of Indian society lies in their conversion to Christianity." A more striking statement was probably never made, so altogether foreign is it to what precedent and experience would have led us to expect. Indeed, had it come from any other quarter than that from which it sprang, we should have been inclined to regard it as a counsel of despair. But there is no room for

## KEEP THEM FROM THE EVIL.

GOD of love that hearest prayer,  
Kindly for thy people care,  
Who on Thee alone depend;  
Love us, save us to the end.

Save us in the prosperous hour,  
From the flattering tempter's power,  
From his unsuspected wiles,  
From the world's pernicious smiles.

Cut off our dependence vain  
On the help of feeble man;  
Every arm of flesh remove;  
Stay us only on thy love!

Never let the world break in;  
Fix a mighty gulf between:  
Keep us little and unknown,  
Prized and loved by God alone.

—Charles Wesley

## General Articles.

## THE BIBLE OUR GUIDE.

MRS. E. G. WHITE.

THOSE who boast of wisdom beyond the teaching of the Word of God, need to drink deeper of the fountain of knowledge, that they may learn their real ignorance. Men boast of their wisdom, when it is foolishness in the sight of God. Let no man deceive himself. "If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God; for it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness." The greatest ignorance that now curses the human race is ignorance of the binding claims of the law of God; and this ignorance is the result of neglecting the study of the Word of God. It is Satan's plan to so engage the mind that men shall neglect the great Guide Book, and thus be led into the path of transgression and destruction.

The Bible is not exalted to its rightful place among the books of the world, although its study is of infinite importance to the souls of men. In searching its pages the imagination beholds scenes majestic and eternal. We behold Jesus, the Son of God, coming to our world, and engaging in the mysterious conflict that discomfited the powers of darkness. O how wonderful, how almost incredible it is, that the infinite God would consent to the humiliation of his own Son that we might be elevated to a place with Him upon his throne! Let every student of the Scriptures contemplate this great fact, and he will not come from a study of the Bible without being purified, elevated, and ennobled. The truth will be opened to the mind, and applied to the heart by the Spirit of God. Through connection with God, the Christian will have clearer and broader views, unbiassed by his own preconceived opinions. His discernment will be more penetrating, his faculties better balanced. His mind, exercised in the contemplation of exalted truths, will be expanded, and in obtaining heavenly knowledge he will better understand his own weakness, and will grow in faith and humility. When there is little attention given to the Word of God, divine counsels are not heeded, admonitions are in vain, grace and heavenly wisdom are not sought that past sins may be avoided and every taint of corruption cleansed from the character. David prayed, "Make me to understand the way of thy precepts; so shall I talk of thy wonderful works. . . . Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

There is a great work to be done by the earnest Bible student; for gems of truth are to be gathered up, and separated from the companionship of error. Though the Bible is a revelation from heaven, yet many do not comprehend its divine teaching. We are to discover new aspects of truth in both the Old and the New Testament, to behold the exceeding breadth and compass of truths which we imagine we understand, but of which we have only a superficial knowledge. He who earnestly searches the Scriptures will see that harmony exists between the various parts of the Bible; he will discover the bearing of one passage upon another, and the reward of his toil will be exceedingly precious.

All over the field of revelation are scattered glad springs of heavenly truth, peace, and joy. These fountains of joy are within the reach of every seeker. The words of Inspiration, pondered in the heart, will be as living streams flowing from the river of the water of life. Our Saviour prayed that the mind of his followers might be opened to understand the Scriptures. Whenever we study the Bible with a prayerful heart, the Holy Spirit is near to open to us the meaning of the words we read. The man whose mind is enlightened by the opening of God's Word to his understanding, will not only feel that he must more diligently seek to understand that Word, but that he must have a better understanding of the sciences. He will feel that he is called to a high calling in Christ Jesus. The more closely connected man is with the Source of all knowledge and wisdom, the more he will feel that he must advance in intellectual and spiritual attainments. The opening of God's Word is always followed by a remarkable opening and strengthening of man's faculties; for the entrance of his words giveth light. By contemplation of great truths, the mind is elevated, the affections purified and refined; for the Spirit of God, through the truth of God, quickens the lifeless, spiritual faculties, and attracts the soul heavenward.

Then take your Bible and present yourself before your Heavenly Father, saying, "Enlighten me; teach me what is truth." The Lord will regard your prayer, and the Holy Spirit will impress the truth upon your soul. In searching the Scriptures for yourself, you will become established in the faith. It is of the greatest importance that you continually search the Scriptures, storing the mind with the truths of God. You may be separated from the companionship of Christians, and placed where you will not have the privilege of meeting with the children of God. You need the treasures of God's Word hidden in your heart, that when opposition comes upon you, you may bring everything to the test of the Scriptures.

Truth is eternal, and conflict with error will only make manifest its strength. We should never refuse to examine the Scriptures with those who, we have reason to believe, desire to know what is truth as much as we do. Suppose a brother holds a view that differs from yours, and he comes to you, proposing that you sit down with him, and investigate that point in the light of the Scriptures; should you rise up filled with prejudice, and condemn his ideas while refusing to give him a hearing? The only right way would be to sit down as Christians and investigate the position presented, in the light of God's Word, which will reveal truth and unmask error. To ridicule his ideas would not weaken his position, though it were false, or strengthen your position, though it were true. If the pillars of our faith will not stand the test of investigation, it is time that

we knew it; for it is foolish to become set in our ideas, and think that no one should interfere with our opinions. Let everything be brought to the Bible; for it is the only rule of faith and doctrine.

We must study the truth for ourselves; no man should be relied upon to think for us, no matter who he may be or in what position he may be placed. We are not to look upon any man as a perfect guide for us. We are to counsel together, and be subject one to another; but at the same time we are to exercise the ability God has given us to learn what is truth. Each one of us must look to God for divine enlightenment, that we may individually develop a character that will stand the test of the great day.

We are living in the last days, when error of a most deceptive character is accepted and believed, while truth is discarded. Many are drifting into darkness and infidelity, picking flaws with the Bible, bringing up superstitious inventions, unscriptural theories, and speculations of vain philosophy; but it is the duty of every one to seek a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. The importance and benefit of Bible study cannot be overestimated. In searching the Scriptures our minds are led to dwell upon the infinite sacrifice of Christ, on his mediation in our behalf. As we see his love, as we meditate upon his humiliation and sufferings, the same spirit of self-denial and sacrifice for the good of others will be kindled in our hearts. As we behold Jesus by the eye of faith, we shall be "changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

## THE GOSPEL IN HEATHEN LANDS.

SOUTH AFRICA.

A. G. DANIELLS.

AFRICA has received a great deal of attention from civilized nations during the last century. Vast regions have been explored, rivers have been traced to their sources, lakes have been discovered, and hidden tribes of people have been brought to light. The resources of the country have been studied with care, and much has been done to throw the rays of civilization over the face of the "dark continent."

Not least among the enterprises that have been started in Africa is the establishment of Christian missions. By this means the gospel of Christ has been planted in the unpromising soil of superstition and gross moral darkness.

This enterprise has swallowed up vast sums of money and the lives of many noble men and women. It has been questioned whether the results justify the outlay; but we do not view it in that light. The influence of these missionaries has been far-reaching in many directions; and eternity alone will reveal the full results.

To those who are interested in the gospel, and the deliverance of men from the low heathenism of Africa, the history of missionary enterprises in that dark land must be of deep interest. It is not a tame, uneventful history. From the beginning of the work to the present time, the enterprise has been a live one. In these brief articles it will be possible to present only a few of the many points of thrilling interest.

To the Moravian church at Herrnhut, under the leadership of Count Zinzendorf, belongs the credit of sending the first Protestant missionary to Africa. The man chosen for this important and perilous task was George Schmidt. He was not a novice in religious experience nor in missionary work. Soon after his conversion, he was sent out with one of the elders of the